

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 CU-04 GAC-01 SAJ-01

RSR-01 /130 W

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R 061712 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5492

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

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TAGS: ELAB SP

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO BARCELONA WORKER DEATH

REF MADRID 1798

SUMMARY: REACTIONS TO APRIL 3 DEATH OF BARCELONA CONSTRUCTION
WORKER IN CLASH WITH POLICE HAVE INCLUDED (A) SCATTERED BRIEF
SOLIDARITY STRIKES IN BARCELONA AREA AND RELATIVELY
UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT AT A BARCELONA GENERAL STRIKE TODAY;
(B) ATTEMPTS AT STREET MANIFESTATIONS BY GROUPS OF YOUTHS;
(C) STUDENT DISORDERS ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES IN MADRID AND
BARCELONA; AND (D) A STATEMENT BY THE BARCELONA CARDINAL
STRONGLY CRITICAL OF THE GOVT IN THE SOCIAL AND LABOR
SPHERE. END SUMMARY

1. SCATTERED STRIKES OF 30 MINUTES TO ONE HOUR' S DURATION
HAVE TAKEN PLACE AS ACTS OF SOLIDARITY WITH WORKER KILLED
BY POLICE IN APRIL 3 CLASH WITH STRIKING BARCELONA CON-
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STRUCTION WORKERS (REF). THESE HAVE BEEN PRINCIPALLY LIMITED TO THE BARCELONA INDUSTRIAL AREA. A CALL FOR A GENERAL STRIKE TODAY IN BARCELONA, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO HAVE MET WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE RESPONSE.

2. SEVERAL BRIEF DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE ALSO TAKEN PLACE BY SCATTERED GROUPS OF YOUNG STUDENTS AND WORKERS IN BARCELONA DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS, BUT ALL HAVE BEEN PROMPTLY DISPERSED BY POLICE AND ACCOMPANIED BY ISOLATED ARRESTS.

3. BUT GREATEST TENSION OOVER THE TRAGIC INCIDENT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN IN UNIVERSITY CIRCLES. UNIVERSITIES IN BOTH BARCELONA AND MADRID HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY MANY PROTEST ASSEMBLIES AND MANIFESTATIONS, WHICH HAVE USUALLY BEEN BROKEN UP BY POLICE. DEATH OF BARCELONA WORKER, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO HAVE MERELY GIVEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, WHO HAD BEEN STAGING VARIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS ON AN ALMOST DAILY BASIS DURING THE PAST MONTH OVER STUDENT AND FACULTY GRIEVANCES, CHANCE TO BROADEN THEIR PROTEST ACTIVITY TO INCLUDE " SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORKERS".

4. PERHAPS MOST INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT WAS A STATEMENT ISSUED BY NEWLY CREATED CARDINAL ARCHBISHOP JUBANY OF BARCELONA AND PUBLISHED IN TODAY' S PRESS. ALTHOUGH IN THIS STATEMENT JUBANY CONDEMNS ALL VIOLENCE, HE LAID THE ROOTS OF THIS TRAGIC INCIDENT AND VIOLENCE SQUARELY UPON " SOCIAL INJUSTICE". HE ADDED THAT SUCH " UNJUST SITUATIONS" LEADING TO THESE CLASHES AND VIOLENCE COULD BE AVOIDED BY THE USE OF " NECESSARY REFORMS MADE IN TIME". THE CARDINAL' S STATEMENT THUS CONTAINED SOME OF THE STRONGEST RECENT CRITICISM OF THE GOVT IN THE LABOR AND SOCIAL FIELDS.

5. COMMENT: SCATTERED PROTEST ACTIVITIES BY WORKERS AND STUDENTS HAVE NOT SO FAR AROUSED WIDESPREAD RESPONSE OUTSIDE OF UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES, AND CALL FOR GENERAL STRIKE TODAY IN BARCELONA APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN RELATIVE FAILURE. BUT CARDINAL JUBANY' S STATEMENT HAS EMBARRASSED GOVT. WORKERS COMMISSIONS AND OTHER CLANDESTINE LABOR GROUPS REPORTEDLY HOPE TO USE BARCELONA WORKER DEATH AS (A) PRETEXT TO EMBARRASS SPANISH SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION WHOSE NATIONAL SYNDICAL CONGRESS STARTS ON APRIL 11; (B) RATIONALE FOR MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE MAY 1 PROTEST ACTIVITIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS YEAR THAN THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MOUNT IN RECENT YEARS;

AND (C) ADDITIONAL AMMUNITION FOR COMMUNIST- MANIPULATED
INTERNATIONAL PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN BUILDING UP AROUND THE
FUTURE TRIAL OF SPANISH COMMUNIST WORKER LEADER MARCELINO
CAMACHO AND " CARABANCHEL TEN".
RIVERO

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